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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/615,876	03/14/1996	TAKASHI OYA	1232-4253	2793

7590 11/20/2002

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345 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10154

EXAMINER

SRIVASTAVA, VIVEK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2611

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2002

45

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/21/02

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 7-7, 16, 16, 20-23, 25, 27-31, 35-47 + 51-72 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 3, 4, 6, 7, 16, 18, 20-23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 35-44, 46, 47 + 51-72 is/are rejected.

☒ Claim(s) 5, 29, 45 is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 16, 18, 20-23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 35-44, 46, 47 and 51-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suga et al (6,380,972).

Considering claims 3, 27, 43, 65, 67, 73, Suga discloses a monitoring terminal station (see fig 1 item 6, note: a computer readable medium is met by personal computer in col 4 lines 15-

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17) for monitoring and displaying images picked up by camera (see camera A-1, camera B-1, and camera C-1 in fig 1). Suga further discloses determining positions of the thumbs 305, 309 and 313 in the panning bars 302 and 306 and zoom bar 310 which are determined on the basis of the status table of the camera (see col 8 lines 20-30). Since the positions of the thumbs are determined based on the status of the camera information, Suga discloses the claimed obtaining information concerning parameters of the camera, note: since the parameters can be changed by a user including panning and zooming which changes the location on the status bar, Suga discloses the claimed “parameters whose conditions can be changed”. Further, Suga discloses obtaining the aspect ratio of the camera for displaying the appropriated aspect window size on the display (see 16:9 and 4:3, note: aspect ratio in an “unchanging parameter” which does not change as the user uses the camera and is obtained “initially” as the camera is selected). Suga also discloses a display device (see col 8 lines 20-30) which displays the parameters (see panning, zoom, angle and focus as displayed by thumbs 305, 309 and 313 based on the camera status, see col 8 lines 20-30 and col 9 lines 1-14).

Considering claims 22, 41, 57, 59, 61, 63, 69 and 71, claims 22, 41, 57, 61, 63, 69 and 71 recite the same limitations recited in claims 3, 37, 53, 65, 67 and 73 and are rejected for at least the same reasons provided above. Claims 22, 41, 57, 59, 61, 63, 69 and 71 also recite a “camera status display means for distinguishably displaying used statuses of the camera apparatuses on the basis of the condition where the camera apparatuses are used by another terminal and by a user’s own terminal and not used by anyone which is disclosed by Suga see (col 11 lines 17-43).

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Considering claim 4, 28, 44, Suga discloses the claimed wherein predetermined camera is used by another user, the display device displays a symbol of the predetermined camera in a color different from the other cameras (see col 11 lines 18-46, title bar of display window of corresponding camera changes color see title bar in terminal stations in fig 5).

Considering claims 6, 30, 46, Suga discloses displaying the on a screen layout the cameras which are currently being used or are connected. In particular, Suga depicts a screen layout with six camera symbols displayed (see A-1, A-2, B-1, B-2, C-1, C-2 in fig 1) when six inputs are used or connected and a screen layout with four camera symbols displayed (see A-1, A-2, B-1, B-2 in fig 5) when four camera inputs are used or connected. Since Suga discloses displaying the cameras which are registered and connected and not displaying cameras which are not connected, Suga meets the claimed limitation.

Considering claim 7, 31, 47, Suga discloses the claimed wherein the display device displays, if predetermined camera is unavailable a symbol of the predetermined camera to indicate responsless state (met by indicating that camera A-2 is in use by another terminal, thus the camera is unavailable or responseless - see col 11 lines 17-47).

Considering claims 16, 35, 51 Suga discloses the claimed display device displays a layout and camera symbol representing the predetermined camera over the layout on the basis of the parameters, said predetermined camera with the camera symbol (camera met by symbol A-1 and B-1 in fig 5 which represents camera A-1 and B-1 in fig 1, parameters met by aspect ratio of

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camera - see col 7 lines 52-63 and panning and zooming - see col 6 lines 50-60 and col 8 lines 20-30).

Considering claim 18, 38, 54, Suga discloses the claimed wherein the display means device displays a status of connection of the camera apparatus and the network (see col 11 lines 17-47).

Considering claim 20, 37, 53, Suga discloses the claimed display device displays the image picked up by the predetermined camera on the same screen simultaneously as the screen on which the status of the predetermined camera is displayed (see fig 5).

Considering claims 21, 39, 55 Suga discloses displaying positions of thumbs in the panning bars and zooming bars which can indicated the position of the camera according the beginning and ending of user operation (see col 8 lines 20-30).

Considering claims 23, 42, 58, 60, 62, 64 70 and 72 Suga discloses generating camera symbols on a layout displayed on a screen and displaying different camera symbols on the basis of the condition where the camera is used by another terminal and by a user's own terminal and not by anyone (see fig 5, col 11 lines 18-44).

Considering claims 25, 36, 40, 52, 56 Suga discloses the claimed wherein the obtaining device periodically obtains information concerning parameters of predetermined camera whose condition changes subsequently to the initial startup (parameters such as zooming, panning, angle etc. change and is represented by the position of thumbs after initial startup - see col 8 lines 20-30).

Considering claims 66 and 68, Suga discloses the claimed wherein the parameters include at least one of position and attitude of camera (met since aspect ration, focus, angle, panning,

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zooming and position are determined for each camera (see col 6 lines 50-60, col 7 lines 40-63, col 8 lines 20-30).

Considering claims 74-79, Suga discloses unchanging parameters like the aspect ratio of the camera (see col 7 lines 52-63) and the position of the camera (camera A-1 corresponds to terminal station A, camera B-1 corresponds to terminal station B, see fig 1 and fig 5, for obtaining information from terminal stations A and B) and parameters whose conditions are changed by the user's operations by panning or zooming (see col 6 lines 50-60, col 8 lines 20-30).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The indicated allowability of claims 4, 6, 22, 23, 28, 30, 41, 42, 44, 46, 57, 58, 59-64 and 69-72 is withdrawn. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) is presented above.

4. Claims 5, 29, 45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- 1) Lang - Remote Video Viewing And Recording System For Remotely Occurring Events
- 2) Washing - Personal-Computer-Based Video Production System
- 3) Diner - Adjustable Control Station With Movable Monitors And Cameras For Viewing Systems In Robotics And Teleoperations
- 4) Thompson - Synchronization Of Vertical Phase Of The Video Signals In A Video System
- 5) Cortjens et al. - Method For Automatically Adjusting The Pan And Tilt Of A Video Conferencing System Camera
- 6) Tsujita - Automatic bowling scoring system
- 7) Katz - Videophone system for scrutiny monitoring with computer control
- 8) Thompson - Open loop camera control

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

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(703) 305-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305 - 5399 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal
Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner
should be directed to Vivek Srivastava whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 4038. The
examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Andy Faile, can be reached at (703) 305 - 4380.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 3900.

VS

11/15/02



VIVEK SRIVASTAVA
PATENT EXAMINER